

12 April 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Meeting with ALAN/15 on 25 and 29 March 1960

1. Meeting Arrangements - This meeting was arranged at Subject's initiative. He called the Embassy, Extension 200, asked for [] identified himself as Peters. The meetings took place in Subject's car opposite the Nordic House.

2. Soviet approach to [] Subject stated that his main purpose for calling this meeting concerned a telephone call he had received from [] in which the latter advised Subject that he [] has received a telephone call from a member of a Soviet tourist group, expressing a desire to meet him. [] passed this information to Subject for the latter to inform the AIS. Although this was not expressly stated, Subject explained that this is a clear understanding between the two. Subject has even promised to reimburse [] for any operational expenses which obviously would come from the AIS.

3. [] related to Subject the following information:

a. On 23 March [] received a telephone call from one Meliss-Melinovskis. The latter is a member of a Latvian tourist group presently touring Sweden.

b. Melinovskis identified himself as a Latvian and friend of Mirza Kempa, a well-known Latvian poet and friend of []. Melinovskis stated that he wished to see [] and had a request from Mirza Kempa. They agreed that [] would pick up Melinovskis at the latter's hotel (The Palace).

c. [] met Melinovskis on 24 March. The meeting lasted from

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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2000 hours to 0200 hours. From the hotel they went to a cafe and from there to [] home. No one else was present during the meeting. They agreed again to meet on Saturday, 28 March.

d. Melinovskis is about 50 years old, married, two children, lives in Riga and claims to be a literary critic. [] recalls that he has heard and read about Melinovskis in current Latvian newspapers. During this conversation [] learned that Melinovskis travels extensively in Western Europe, specifically in Germany, Belgium and Spain. He is a very temperamental and emotional individual and was refused another drink at the Palace Hotel bar because the bartender thought he was drunk. Actually, he was just heatedly discussing literary and art topics with []. They discussed current academic freedoms in the East and West, literary achievements in Latvia. Melinovskis on occasion really criticized the Communist systems limitations in exerting undue pressure and censorship on literary minds in Latvia. [] also learned that Melinovskis has been a war-time correspondent in the Red Division which was a Latvian Division fighting within the Soviet army.

e. Melinovskis advised [] that it would not be advisable for him to return to Riga now since high personalities in the Latvian communist party consider [] as unacceptable. Melinovskis made no reference to a previous attempt on the part of the Soviets to get [] to return to Riga. In 1959 they brought [] brother to Helsinki to persuade him to defect. Melinovskis made no reference to this

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to this incident at all and [] did not bring it up either.

f. A second meeting took place between Melinovskis and [] on 28 March which lasted from 1900 to 2200 hours. This meeting took place in the studio of the Latvian sculptor Balodis. There was apparently a mixup in the meeting schedules because it was originally intended for [] to meet with Melinovskis alone. However, when [] appeared at the Palace Hotel and was waiting for Melinovskis to come down he ran into another local Latvian, the sculptor Balodis who had a meeting with another Latvian official also living at the Palace, one frā Kalnins. Balodis had an appointment to meet with Kalnins but since all for met in the lobby, they decided to go together to Balodis' studio. The actual purpose of these visits came to the surface during this meeting. Both Melinovskis and Kalnins represented the views that it is necessary in the future for a closer cooperation between the intellectual groups of Western emigrants with their counterparts in the homeland. They indicated that progressive academicians in the emigration should have a closer contact with the homeland for mutual art shows, mutual intellectual displays and exhibits and closer cooperation. They made no specific propositions but this was obviously the new line. Especially Melinovskis tried to be conciliatory in his expression of political developments. He stated, for instance, that things have changed in the Soviet Union; that there are no longer mass deportations and that the developments of new lands is now handled more or less by voluntary recruits, although he admitted that some of the people who work in the new lands areas are semi-criminal elements who have been assigned to this task.

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Concerning Hungary, Melinovskis stated that the revolution was not instigated by American imperialism but was the result of internal social injustices which have since been adjusted.

g. Melinovskis indicated a detailed knowledge of the Latvian emigre group in Sweden and even knew some Swedish.

h. Kalnins, contrary to Melinovskis, was a staunch communist who parroted the official communist line and had nothing original to say. [] believed him to be a security official. When asked for his occupation he stated that he was a government official, without specifying the organization with which he is affiliated.

i. [] asked Melinovskis about [] brother, if he had seen him or had any messages from him, to which Melinovskis replied in the negative.

j. This meeting ended on friendly terms and [] delivered to Melinovskis two books which he is to deliver to Mirza Kampe at her request. The two books are by a Latvian emigre author, Eriks Adamsons.

4. When the undersigned asked AEMARSH 4/15 if [] had any additional comments to make about this meeting or if he wished any other information passed to us, AEMARSH replied in the negative. This meeting has not changed [] attitude about his anti-communist activities and he intends to continue his active work in the local emigration.

5. Re [] - Subject stated that [] is a professional anti-communist who is secretary of the Swedish Latvian National Committee, which is mostly an honorary job without compensation. [] publishes books and writes for the Latvian emigre papers. He earns very little for these efforts. Fortunately his wife is employed and she provides the funds for a living. Concerning his

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temporary break until such time as either he or we find something of operational significance which would require future meetings. Subject was advised that if something happens in the future concerning emigre affairs which he considers to be important operational significance, he is to call on the operational telephone and request a meeting. Conversely, we will contact him if we have some tasks for Subject. Subject was quite disturbed by this and brought up again his lengthy complaints about our poor handling of him and his disappointment in the AIS. He stated that he could not understand that his efforts in the past have been without value and that we were no longer interested in utilizing his good inside contacts for the purpose of collecting positive intelligence. Subject did not believe that his inside friends, [] could be under opposition control or pressure and requested that we submit proof that this is the case. The undersigned indicated to Subject that he should have learned by now, after several years of experience in clandestine operations, that his request is not realistic. Subject was again told that we had no interests in his inside contacts and that he is not to consider himself in any way associated with us in writing future letters to his inside contacts. When Subject asked what he should do in case they write, I advised him that he can write them anything he wants to on a personal basis. However, that he is not to consider himself as acting on our behalf when corresponding to these people. It was suggested to Subject that he try and break off this correspondence and definitely not to initiate new letters of his own but in order to give this a normal appearance, only answer letters which he receives and then only in short general personal notes. Then Subject stated that he was very much impressed by our lack of operational interest vis a vis his three sub-agents whom he has recruited to provide him with courier channels to La'via.

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Subject was advised that to the best of my knowledge he has never been instructed to recruit these people on our behalf and if he has done this he should attempt to deactivate such friends since we have no interest in using Subject's sidekicks to provide us with sailor leads to Latvia. Subject's parting comment was and how do I receive my cigarettes now?

9. The Stockholm telephone directory indicates the following Balodis:

Alvin & Karlis Balodis, Oostervagen, Solna # 82 10 07

Prof. Francis Balodis, Essingesterakavagen 36, # 50 14 42

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